

In The Specification

Please replace paragraph 38 of the specification with the following new paragraph 38:

Either torch, 35A or 35B, or both, may be activated during operation of the waste processing system 5. The other torch can be provided to reduce or eliminate system down time while replacement of torch electrodes is performed on the first torch. When one torch is being replaced or fixed, the other can be used. The non-operating torch can be isolated from the vessel 20 by means of a slide gate 155. This can help facilitate maintenance of the torch and electrode replacement without significant impact on the operating schedule.

Please replace paragraph 44 of the specification with the following new paragraph 44:

The waste processing system 5 can allow the plume length of the flames and power generated by the torches 35A and 35B to be varied depending on the type of waste being treated (by controlling the type of torch gas 158, the flow rate of the torch gas 158, and torch current 159). For example, the torch power output can be regulated by the process monitor and controls 50 such that four current settings are provided to an operator to adjust the flames. The settings can vary, for example, by a factor of 5. Any number of settings, however, may be provided, and the settings can vary by factors other than 5.

Please replace paragraph 49 of the specification with the following new paragraph 49:

In other embodiments, only one tap may be provided and used or more than two taps may be provided and used. In addition, the taps can be positioned at locations of the vessel 20 other than at the sides. For example, ~~the taps 42 and 46~~ a tap 157 can be located toward the bottom of the vessel 20. Furthermore, other means may be used to drain the slag pool 103 from the vessel 20.

Please replace paragraph 55 of the specification with the following new paragraph 55:

The glassy slag may also be drained through the taps 42 and 46 into water-cooled slag tap carts, such as cart 156, which are removed from the vessel after the slag is cooled and solidified. As a further alternative, the slag can be drained into other specially designed components contained in the cars, such as molds insulated by sand.